

1. A method for responding to an inquiry by an inquirer in exchange for an established resource over a communication network, said method comprising the steps of
5 providing an inquiry by an inquirer that requires a response over the communication network,
providing a response to the inquiry by a consultant over the communication network, and
exchanging the resource between the consultant and the inquirer for responding to the inquiry.
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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the communications network comprises the internet.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing the resource
15 exchanged between the consultant and the inquirer.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of establishing the resource comprises the step of establishing the resource by one of the consultant, the inquirer, and the provider.
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5. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of establishing the resource comprises the step of negotiating the resource between the inquirer and the consultant.
6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing a profile of
25 the consultant or the inquirer.
7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of verifying the profile of the consultant.
- 30 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of establishing a profile of the consultant or the inquirer, and verifying the profile of the consultant or the inquirer.
9. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of matching a consultant with an inquirer based upon a pre-established profile of at least one of the consultant and the
35 inquirer.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of establishing a profile of the consultant, and matching the inquirer with the consultant based on the profile.
- 5 11. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of establishing a profile of the consultant, establishing a profile of the inquirer, and matching the inquirer with the consultant based on the established profiles.
- 10 12. In a communications network having a client machine and a server, a method for responding to an inquiry by an inquirer in exchange for a resource, said method comprising the steps of
- 15 providing an inquirer with access to the communications network to furnish an inquiry that requires a response,
- providing a consultant with access to the communication network for responding to the inquiry of the inquirer, and
- exchanging a resource between the consultant and the inquirer for responding to the inquiry.
- 20 13. A system for responding to an inquiry by an inquirer in exchange for an established resource, comprising
- an inquiry facility for providing an inquirer having an inquiry that requires a response,
- 25 a consultant facility for providing a consultant for responding to the inquiry of the inquirer, and
- an exchange facility for exchanging a resource between the consultant and the inquirer for responding to the inquiry.
14. The system of claim 13, further comprising a communications network for
- 30 allowing the consultant to respond to the inquiry.
15. The system of claim 14, wherein the communications network comprises the internet.
- 35 16. The system of claim 13, further comprising means for establishing a profile of the consultant or the inquirer.

17. The system of claim 16, further comprising means for verifying the profile of the consultant.

18. The system of claim 13, further comprising means for allowing the inquirer to
5 specify the profile of the consultant.

19. The system of claim 13, further comprising a matching facility for matching a consultant with an inquirer based upon a pre-established profile of at least one of the consultant and the inquirer.

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20. The system of claim 19, wherein said matching facility comprises
means for establishing a profile of at least one of the consultant and the inquirer,
and
means for matching the inquirer with the consultant based on the profile.

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21. In a communications network, a business method for responding to an inquiry by an inquirer in exchange for a resource in order to facilitate response to the inquiry, said method comprising the steps of
accepting an inquiry from an inquirer that requires a response,
20 allowing a consultant to respond to the inquiry of the inquirer, and
providing for an exchange of the resource between the consultant and the inquirer for responding to the inquiry.

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22. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of establishing the resource
25 exchanged between the consultant and the inquirer.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the step of establishing the resource comprises the step of establishing the resource by at least one of the consultant, the inquirer, and the provider.

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24. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of establishing a profile of at least one of the consultant and the inquirer.

25. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of verifying the profile of
35 the consultant.

26. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of allowing the inquirer to specify the profile of the consultant.
27. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of matching a consultant
5 with an inquirer based upon a pre-established profile of at least one of the consultant and the inquirer.
28. The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of
10 establishing a profile of at least one of the consultant and the inquirer, and matching the inquirer with the consultant based on the profile.